

Another thing which will not fail to attract your notice is a marble altar, five feet high, of the most exquisite workmanship, and which is anointed every morning with the finest perfumes that can be had. On the eastern side of it is the following inscription. "*If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not.*" Accordingly the good Giant, before he takes a book in his hand, always kneels down before the altar, and implores the assistance of the great Father of Truth: from which we may suppose, that he never looks into an author who is not capable of giving him some real and useful improvement, as well as diversion.

I dare say, therefore, that he never reads the History of *Tom Nicksbriest*, or *Jack the Giant-Killer*, or *Goody Shipton*, or any other such idle stories; and much less any thing which borders upon profaneness or indecency; for these, to be sure, would be fine books for him to pray
over!

over! It is likewise my opinion, and I'll engage for it, that most sober gentlemen are in the same way of thinking;—it is my opinion, I say, that if young masters and misses were to follow the Giant's good example, and always say their prayers before they go to school, they would not learn the less for it, but rather the more.

But before we quit the Library, it will be worth our while to take some little notice by the way of a *fine large parrot in a golden cage*, which hangs up near one of the windows. This is, indeed, a very beautiful bird, and so ingenious, I can assure you, that he hath learned not only to talk, but also to read. Nay, if you'll believe me, he is no stranger even to the Greek and Latin. Some will add that he can read Hebrew; though, for my part, I can't say that I have ever heard him. But, read what he will, poor bird! he does not understand the meaning of it; and the most he can do is to chatter a line out of one author, and a scrap out of another, without any propriety